

Amendment dated March 17, 2009

Reply to Office Action dated December 18, 2008

and Reply to Advisory Action dated March 4, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing collagen production, comprising ~~administering~~ administering a composition comprising (i) a saccharide derivative of L-ascorbic acid, its derivatives, or a mixture thereof and (ii) a fatty acid, to a living body.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said fatty acid is derived from royal jelly.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said fatty acid is one or more members selected from the group consisting of 10-

Amendment dated March 17, 2009

Reply to Office Action dated December 18, 2008

and Reply to Advisory Action dated March 4, 2009

hydroxy-2-decenoic acid, 10-hydroxydecanoic acid,

decanoic acid, 2-decenoic acid, and sebacic acid.

20. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the saccharide derivative of L-ascorbic acid is selected from the group consisting of L-ascorbic acid 2-glucoside and L-ascorbic acid 2-glycoside; inorganic salts thereof, organic salts thereof, and esters thereof.

21. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition contains said L-ascorbic acid and/or its derivative in an amount of 0.01% (w/w), in terms of the weight of L-ascorbic acid, to the total weight of said agent.

22. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition contains a fatty acid or its derivative in an amount of at least 0.0001 part by weight to one part by weight of said L-ascorbic acid and/or its derivative, in terms of the weight of L-ascorbic acid.

23. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition further contains one or more other ingredients selected from materials for food products, foods for special use, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, quasi-drugs, feeds, baits, and pet foods.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said other ingredient is one or more members selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, viscosity-imparting agents, stabilizers, excipients, fillers, pH-controlling agents, viscosity-imparting agents, sour agents, extracts, saccharides, glycosaminoglycans, sugar alcohols, amino acids, vitamins including L-ascorbic acid and derivatives thereof, water, alcohols, amylaceous substances, proteins, fibers, lipids, minerals, flavors, colors, sweeteners, seasonings, spices, preservatives, emulsifiers, and surfactants.

25. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said L-ascorbic acid 2-glycoside contains at least L-ascorbic acid 2-glucoside.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said glycosaminoglycan is one or more members selected from the group consisting of chondroitin, chondroitin sulfate, dermatan sulfate, heparin, heparan sulfate, keratan sulfate, hyaluronic acid, and aluronic acid.

27. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the composition is a food product, health food, or food for special use.

28. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the composition is in the form of a cosmetic..

29. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the composition is in the form of a pharmaceutical or quasi-drug.

30. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the composition is in the form of a feed, bait or pet food.